

SCOTT BANBURY: My name is Scott Banbury. I came up from Memphis, Tennessee for this hearing. In Memphis, I'm at really the far downstream side of the Federal Coal Leasing Program. Nearly one hundred percent of the coal that we burn at the Allen Steam Plant there comes from Powder River Basin in Colorado Coal is my understanding. We, fortunately, are shutting that plant down in 2018, and we will no longer have the dubious distinction of being at the tail-end of this program. But we have been dealing with externalities from it for a long time. We are the asthma capital of the United States right now. Coal combustion, in both bow and steam plant, but also at private facilities that burn coal for their own internal power consumption have contributed the vast majority of aggravants that kids are suffering from and elderly are suffering from. These are the things that I hope are really going to be considered. These externalities impact the public health. They impact water quality. The fluent that comes out of the coal ash ponds at our plant and other plants, these things should be included in the calculations. And the socio-economic impacts, I hope that we are not just going to focus on the loss of mining jobs, but also focus on how not internalizing the environmental and health impacts of taking this coal carbon out of the ground and putting it into our atmosphere, how not internalizing those costs is affecting the competitiveness of clean alternative energy forms like wind and distributive solar. It was mentioned in the beginning presentation that you have already got twenty years worth of coal under lease, ready to go. So, it is not going to hurt us for twenty years in terms of being able to take the steps we need to now to move to alternative economies in those communities that are dependent on these mines for jobs, but also to put in place alternative energy sources to replace that coal in the future. And finally I want to say that this, like war, or the use of the death penalty in our justice system, this federal program of taking carbon out of the ground and putting it into the atmosphere has put me into a moral conflict because along with the other three hundred twenty million people in this country, I'm not being given a choice as to whether my share, my one three hundred and twenty-millionth share of that coal, stays in the ground. I want my share to stay in the ground, and I'm sure there is a lot of other people in the United States that want that, too. Please impose a permanent moratorium on this program. Thank you.